



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Crime is Down in First Quarter of 2003

The Howard County Police Department released crime statistics today for the first quarter of 2003, January through March. The report compares data from the first quarter of 2003 to the same time period last year and reflects small fluctuations in numbers.

The report shows a decrease in total crimes, including violent, property and other types of crime, during the first three months of this year when compared to the same time period in 2002.

The first quarter of 2003 saw fewer burglaries, aggravated assaults and thefts than the first quarter of 2002. The comparison also revealed a change in the motor vehicle theft statistics, with 33 more in the first three months of this year than in the same time period last year.

Police received more calls for service—an increase of 2,623 calls—in the first quarter of 2003 than in the same time period in 2002.

In the report, it appears that adult arrests have dropped significantly. However, the significant decrease is actually due to a change in data collection methods. The FBI, which sets the standards used to compile this report, does not require the reporting of certain types of traffic arrests that were included in prior year Howard County crime reports. The actual decrease in the category “All Other Arrests” was 34.20 percent and in “Total Arrests,” 30.45 percent.

The number of police officers assaulted more than doubled in the first three months of 2003, as compared to the same time period in 2002. The increase of more than 111 percent resulted in an average of almost 13 officers being assaulted each month.

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Editor's Note: For a complete copy of the First Quarter Crime Report, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (410) 313-2236.